

Appln No. 10/551,854
Reply to Office Action dated July 25, 2007
Response A, dated August 15, 2007

In reply, Applicants elect herein and without traverse Group II (Claims 18-34), drawn to an alcohol composition and a process of preparing same. Claims 18-34 specifically pertain to a hydroxymethyl-substituted fatty acid or fatty acid ester composition comprising a mixture of mono-alcohols, diols, and triols, and to a method of preparing same.

Applicants cancel herein without prejudice Claims 1-17 (Group I), drawn to an aldehyde composition comprising a mixture of mono-, di-, and tri-formyl-substituted fatty acids or fatty acid esters, and to a method of making same. A formal amendment canceling Claims 1-17 will be made upon the Examiner's request or when matters in this application are resolved, whichever occurs earlier.

Although the election is made without traverse, Applicants observe that EP0711748 (Bahrman) discloses an aldehyde composition, i.e., di- and tri-formyl carboxylic esters, not an alcohol composition as mentioned in the Office Action.

B. Inventorship Determination

The undersigned has reviewed the application for inventive contribution with respect to the election of Group II (Claims 18-34) and has concluded that no correction of inventorship is needed. To the best of undersigned's knowledge, the inventors named in the application as filed have each made an inventive contribution to one or more of the elected claims.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the above, the Examiner may contact the undersigned by telephone. Applicants believe that Claims 18-34 stand in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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